



U.S. Virgin Islands Country Guide

Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to the U.S. Virgin Islands Entry Requirements

As the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) are a territory of the United States, the entry requirements are the same. Most Australian ordinary passport holders can enter the US for tourist purposes or business meetings without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). Travellers entering the US on a plane or cruise ship MUST register with the Electronic System for Travel Authorization website (ESTA) (<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>) before they depart for the US, preferably more than 72 hours prior. Registering with this service costs \$14 and is payable by credit/debit card. The total stay in the US, Canada, Mexico and adjacent islands must be less than 90 days. Travellers require a machine readable e-passport that is valid for the period of intended stay, but it is recommended that they be valid for six months beyond this. Minors must have their own passport and may be subject to further requirements.

Travellers should also be able to supply details of their first nights accommodation, produce tickets for their next destination and show documents confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves. Travellers who do not have complete and correct documentation may be refused entry into the US. All travellers are recommended to read the VWP requirements at <https://au.usembassy.gov/visas/visa-waiver-program> to ensure that their specific circumstances and passport meet the eligibility requirements to enter the US under the VWP. Several factors may impact a travellers VWP eligibility, such as prior arrests or convictions; previous travel to or dual nationality with Chad, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen or Venezuela; serious communicable diseases or some mental illnesses. For further information travellers are encouraged to contact a US mission on the details below.

Current DFAT Travel Advice

Current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise normal safety precautions in the United States (US). Reconsider your need to travel to the US Virgin Islands. Buildings and infrastructure are severely damaged following Hurricane Maria. See [Natural disasters](#)

Enhanced security screening measures are in place for all commercial flights to the US. See [Entry and exit](#). Medical treatment in the US is expensive. Get comprehensive travel insurance to cover medical costs. See [Health](#).

The above advice is issued for the US in general, not specifically for the USVI. The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in the USVI at www.smartraveller.gov.au.

Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to the USVI. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against hepatitis B. Vaccination against typhoid (particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene) should also be considered by travellers to the USVI. As dengue fever and the zika virus occurs, mosquito avoidance measures are recommended. The USVI is listed as a zika category 1 country. For information on the risks the zika virus poses to pregnancy, including up to 6 months following the exposure of either parent, see www.who.int/csr/disease/zika/en/.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to the USVI should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips.

United States Representatives

US Consular Service Centres in Australia

Visa Information Service: 1300 139 399
Web: <https://au.usembassy.gov>

Other US contacts for information on entry requirements:

US Customs and Border Protection Web: www.cbp.gov/travel
US Department of State Web: www.travel.state.gov



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Time Differences between the U.S. Virgin Islands and Australia

The U.S. Virgin Islands are Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone is called Atlantic Standard Time (AST). The following times in Australia are a day ahead of the time in the USVI, for instance if it's Sunday afternoon in the USVI, it's Monday morning in Australia.

USVI, 12 noon, June = Perth midnight; Adelaide, Darwin 1:30am; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 2am.
USVI, 12 noon, December = Perth midnight; Darwin 1:30am; Brisbane 2am; Adelaide 2:30am; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 3am.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for US Virgin Islands: +1 340
To Dial Australia Call: 011 61 <City> <Number>
Travelex Card Services: Call the US on +1 954 838 8294
Visa Global Assistance: 1800 847 2911
MasterCard: 1800 307 7309
American Express Travellers Cheques: 1800 221 7282
Directory Assistance: 411
Department of Tourism helpline: St. Croix 772 0357, St. John 776 6450, St. Thomas 774 8784
Emergency Services: 911

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _
Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____
Card Number: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
Name: _____ Institution: _____
Card Number: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____
Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____
Name: _____ Institution: _____
Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in The U.S. Virgin Islands

Australian Consulate General, New York
34th Floor, 150 East 42nd Street
NEW YORK NY 10017-5612
Tel: (+1 212) 351 6500
Fax: (+1 222) 351 6501
Web: www.newyork.consulate.gov.au

Australia does not maintain a permanent consular presence in the USVI. The Australian Consulate General in New York, United States of America is accredited to this region. Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in the USVI are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Consulate General in New York, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Page 3 of 5 General Destination Information for the U.S. Virgin Islands

Duty Free Allowances for the U.S. Virgin Islands/United States and Australia

Allowances when entering the U.S. Virgin Islands/United States:
 Alcohol: 1 litre of alcoholic beverages.
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 100 cigars.
 Other Goods: Up to US\$100 in addition to the above.

Allowances when entering Australia:
 Alcohol: 2.25 L.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

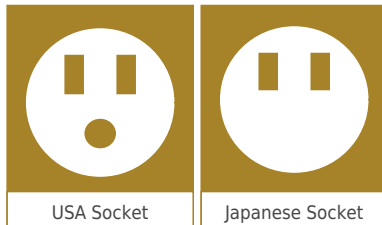
Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. The above rates may be reduced depending on a travellers itinerary and any recent claims of the duty free allowance. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting the US & Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For further details on American customs go to www.cbp.gov/travel, or for information on Australian customs visit www.border.gov.au.

Electrical Adaptors

Electrical Socket type: USA (type B) and Japanese (type A).

Supply: 110-120 V, 60 Hz (different to Australia). A voltage converter will usually be required to use appliances designed for Australia.

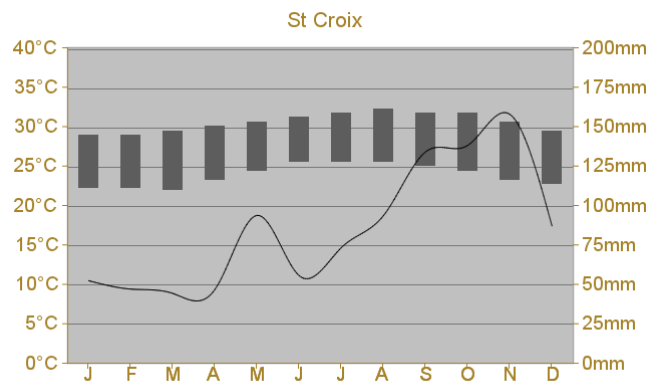
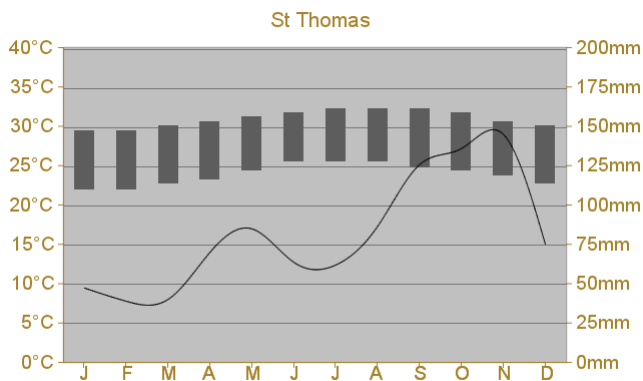
Travellers are urged to check the electrical info panel on their device. If it says "Input: 100-240V, 50-60 Hz" then a voltage converter should not be required.



U.S. Virgin Islands Public Holidays 2018

01 Jan: New Year's Day	03 Jul: V.I. Emancipation Day
06 Jan: Three King's Day	04 Jul: Independence Day
15 Jan: Martin Luther King Jr	03 Sep: Labor Day
19 Feb: Presidents' Day	08 Oct: Columbus Day
29 Mar: Holy Thursday	01 Nov: Hamilton Jackson Day
30 Mar: Good Friday	11/12 Nov: Veteran's Day
31 Mar: Transfer Day	22 Nov: Thanksgiving
02 Apr: Easter Monday	25 Dec: Christmas Day
28 May: Memorial Day	26 Dec: Christmas Second Day

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in the U.S. Virgin Islands



For local forecasts please go to www.weather.com. For St Thomas enter postcode 00801 or for St Croix enter postcode 00820.

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Page 4 of 5 U.S. Virgin Islands Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate with the United States

Interbank Rate
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 0.72 US Dollars
 1 US Dollar (USD) = 1.39 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 0.69 US Dollars
 1 US Dollar (USD) will cost 1.45 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Currency Cheat Sheet

This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.

\$0.50 USD = \$0.72 AUD	\$10 USD = \$14.46 AUD	\$100 USD = \$144.61 AUD
\$1 USD = \$1.45 AUD	\$20 USD = \$28.92 AUD	\$200 USD = \$289.22 AUD
\$2 USD = \$2.89 AUD	\$30 USD = \$43.38 AUD	\$300 USD = \$433.83 AUD
\$3 USD = \$4.34 AUD	\$40 USD = \$57.84 AUD	\$400 USD = \$578.44 AUD
\$4 USD = \$5.78 AUD	\$50 USD = \$72.31 AUD	\$500 USD = \$723.05 AUD
\$5 USD = \$7.23 AUD	\$60 USD = \$86.77 AUD	\$600 USD = \$867.67 AUD
\$6 USD = \$8.68 AUD	\$70 USD = \$101.23 AUD	\$700 USD = \$1,012.28 AUD
\$7 USD = \$10.12 AUD	\$80 USD = \$115.69 AUD	\$800 USD = \$1,156.89 AUD
\$8 USD = \$11.57 AUD	\$90 USD = \$130.15 AUD	\$900 USD = \$1,301.50 AUD
\$9 USD = \$13.01 AUD		\$1000 USD = \$1,446.11 AUD

US Banknotes and Coins

The official currency of the U.S. Virgin Islands is the US Dollar. The following units of currency are the most common but other versions and denominations are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.





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Page 5 of 5 About the U.S. Virgin Islands and U.S. Virgin Islands Travel Map About the U.S. Virgin Islands

Full Name: United States Virgin Islands (formally called the Danish West Indies).

National Status: Unincorporated territory of the United States.

Size: 1,910 sq km (80% the size of the ACT).

Population: 105,000. Charlotte Amalie (capital) 60,000.

Language: English (official). Spanish is also widely spoken.

Religion: Protestant 59%, Catholic 34%.

Ethnicity: Black 76%, white 13%, Asian 1%.

GDP Per Capita: \$14,500 (Australia US\$40,800).

Significant Dates:

Pre 1493 - Arawack peoples are displaced by the Caribs.

1493 AD - Columbus sights the islands and names them "Saint Ursula and her 11,000 Virgins".

1672 - The Danes settle on St Thomas and later on St John. Plantations using African slaves quickly develop.

1733 - The island of St Croix is bought from the French.

1801-15 - Britain occupies the islands during the "English Wars".

1803 - The slave trade is abolished by the Danish King.

1848 - Slavery is abolished following a slave rebellion. The economy deteriorates without free slave labour.

1917 - The US buys the islands for 25 million dollars in gold.

1950's - The tourism industry begins, improving the economy and the living standards of the islanders.

